

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 249

By Herron

A RESOLUTION To honor and commend Michael L. Bowman for being named Dyersburg High School Teacher of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those dedicated teachers who through their profound commitment to education and extraordinary efforts on behalf of their students have earned the approbation of their peers, students and their students' parents; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding educator is Michael L. Bowman, who has been guiding and developing young minds for 27 years, 20 of which were in the Tennessee public school system, and the last five and a half years were with Dyersburg High School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bowman was the first generation of his family having an opportunity to attend college; he was influenced by his mother's revision of an old adage, "Those who can, do; those who can't, teach" which she transformed into "Those who can, teach; those who can't, go into some less meaningful line of work"; and

WHEREAS, Michael Bowman received his Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1974 and his Master of Science in Education from

Arkansas State University in 1980; he went on to engage in post-graduate study at Memphis State University and Bethel College; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bowman embarked upon his chosen career at Wilson Junior High School in Wilson, Arkansas, where he taught General Science in grades 8 and 9, followed by five years at Marked Tree High School in Marked Tree, Arkansas, where he taught English to grades 8, 9, and 12; and

WHEREAS, Michael Bowman came to Bolivar Central High School, in Bolivar, Tennessee in 1981, where he taught English 11 and 12 until December, 1995; in January, 1996, he embarked upon his present assignment, teaching English 11 and 12 at Dyersburg High School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bowman has not neglected participation in professional associations, including acting as the County Coordinator for Tennessee Space Week activities for the Hardeman County Education Association in 1988, serving as Association Representative for the Hardeman County Education Association from 1993-95, and as President-Elect of the Hardeman County Education Association and Trustee of the Hardeman County Sick Leave Bank in 1995, as a member of the Dyersburg Education Association Fair Booth Committee in 1997, as the Association Representative of the Dyersburg Education Association from 1998-2000, and as a member of the United Teaching Profession from 1982 to the present; and

WHEREAS, Michael Bowman has been a leader in his profession, contributing an article, "Proceedings of the Summer Institute - 1978" at Arkansas State University, graduating from the Mid-South Writing Project at Arkansas State University in 1978, serving as a Teacher Consultant at the Mid-South Writing Project at ASU in 1980, graduating from the Program for Effective Teaching of the Arkansas Department of Education in 1980, serving as a Cooperating Teacher at the Teacher Education Program at ASU in 1980, serving as a Facilitator for the West Tennessee Grass Roots Forum in 1982, graduating from the Tennessee Aerospace Workshop Basic program in 1985 and the Advanced program in 1988, serving as County Consultant for

the Tri-State Education Initiative Consortium in 1992, serving as the Tennessee Teacher's Study Council Representative from 1983-84 and 1993-94, serving as Section Chair for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Self-Study from 1997-98, membership on the School Leadership team from 1998 to the present, and serving on the Superintendent's Advisory Committee from 1999-2001; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bowman has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors throughout his career; he was a University Fellow at Arkansas State University in 1978, the 1979 Number One English Teacher Award recipient at Marked Tree High School, the winner of the Outstanding Teacher Award at UT-Martin in 1985 and 1989, had his class featured in The Jackson Sun during a SACS evaluation in 1985, was named Outstanding Teacher by the Hardeman County Chamber of Commerce in 1988 and 1990, was named Teacher of the Year at Bolivar Central High School in 1990, and has been named in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* in 1992 and 2000; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his professional activities, Michael Bowman has consistently involved himself in community activities; he has taught Sunday School as the teacher for the Young Adult Class of the First United Methodist Church at Marked Tree, and the Young Adult Class and the Lynn Warner Sunday School Class at First UMC in Bolivar; served as Study Leader for Christian Responsibility in A Hungry Word at First UMC in Marked Tree; spoken on World Hunger at the Marked Tree Lion's Club; served as a Member at Large on the Administrative Board of First UMC in Bolivar and the First UMC in Dyersburg; addressed the Bolivar Rotary Club on the Career Ladder Program, served as Trustee for First UMC in Bolivar; has served as a pronouncer for the Hardeman County Spelling Bee; has served as Administrative Assistant for the Tennessee Forest Festival Art Show; served as Assistant Soccer Coach for the Bolivar Parks and Recreation Department and has volunteered for tornado relief in Roellen, Tennessee in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bowman has evolved his philosophy of teaching from his initial family grounding and from his experience, both positive and negative, as a teacher himself; he honed in upon the realization that the best teachers demonstrated care for, and extended friendship to, their students, allowing them to internalize the value and benefits of their educational experience; and

WHEREAS, Michael Bowman regards teaching as a calling, and, more than that, he describes that calling as "a ministry that functions outside the confines of the place of worship." His approach is to "lead, rather than push...encourage, rather than belittle...believe that all things are possible...be open and approachable to those in trouble or in need of consolation...be a friend who helps rather than condemns...and be willing to take a stand and risk believing in people..."; and

WHEREAS, When queried about what he teaches, Mr. Bowman likes to respond that he tries to teach people how to live; senior English just happens to be the vehicle by which he tries to do that. He always strives to let his students know that mistakes are a part of learning, that they are loved and free to speak openly, that they are all individually important to him and may always confide in him about their problems; and

WHEREAS, Michael Bowman epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; any child would be indeed fortunate to have a teacher with half of the ability, commitment, love, and concern for his students as is demonstrated by Mr. Bowman; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge the outstanding professional excellence of Mr. Bowman, express our profound gratitude for his dedication to the children under his tutelage and for his many contributions to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Michael L. Bowman for being named

Dyersburg High School Teacher of the Year, for his meritorious service to the children of this State, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.